MINERAL KING UP-DATE

COURT CASE In its original suit, the Sierra Club concentrated on the illegality of permitting the development of Sequoia National Forest by Disney, and on the destructive impact of such a development on the area. The Sierra Club's legal standing to bring suit was challenged in December 1969 in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on the grounds that the Sierra Club had not proven that any of its individual members would be harmed by the development. The Circuit Court ruled in opposition to the Sierra Club, and the case was appealed to the Supreme Court.

In April, 1972, The Supreme Court, in a 3 - 4 decision upheld the decision of the 9th Circuit Court, that the Sierra Club had failed to show that any of its individual members would be harmed by the development. The Court ruled however, that the Sierra Club might revise its arguments and refile in District Court in San Francisco. In May 1972, the Sierra Club filed an amended suit in District Court, adding 9 individuals and one organization (The Mineral King District Association) as co-plaintiffs. Attempts by the government attorneys to have the case dismissed have been unsuccessful, and the case is pending.

Of importance is the fact that because of the challenges to the Sierra Club's legal standing to bring suit, the real issues at stake have never been heard in court, in spite of the fact that the case has been to the Supreme Court. These issues can now be heard. No construction will be undertaken at Mineral King until after the case is settled in court.

DEVELOPER REVISED PLANS On May 3, 1972, the Disney organization announced plans to cut back on the Mineral King project, however the "cut-back" appears to conservationists to be nothing more than the first phase of Disney's original plan. The initial investment in the revised plan calls for an expenditure of $14 million, providing 10 ski lifts, to serve 2,000 skiers. The developer plans on a visitation of 4,000 people on average days; 8,000 on peak days. However, the Los Angeles Times stated on May 4, 1972, that the developer would "...later determine with the Forest Service what expansion would be suitable." Since Disney's original plan called for a $35 million facility, and the Forest Service wholeheartedly supported that plan, it is doubtful they will decide that no expansion is necessary after the first phase is in operation.

ACCESS PLANS REVISED In its news release on May 3, 1972, the Disney organization announced plans to have access via cog-assisted railway for the last 14 miles. The railroad would be financed by the sale of bonds in Tulare County. Ten miles of highway would still be needed. On August 4, 1972, a 14 mile portion of the proposed Mineral King highway was removed from the state highway system by a vote of the California Legislature. Said State Senator, Alfred Alquist of San Jose, "It's a $55 million highway that nobody wants."

BILLS IN CONGRESS On March 15, 1973, Congressman Jerome Waldie of California introduced H.R. 5752 to enlarge Sequoia National Park to include Mineral King, and to prohibit any commercial development there. 17 fellow congressmen co-sponsored the bill. The bill has been referred to the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee chaired by Congressman James A. Haley.(D-Fla)

Congressmen Phillip Burton and Ron Dellums have bills of their own to place Mineral King within Sequoia National Park.

Prepared by the Mineral King Task Force of the Sierra Club
March 16, 1973

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YOU CAN HELP SAVE MINERAL KING

The Honorable... (your Congressman) House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	Urge him to support legislation to include Mineral King in Sequoia National Park (H.R. 7508 by Phillip Burton.) Send copies to Congressman Burton.
The Honorable Alan Cranston The Honorable John Tunney Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	Request their support of S-1032 by Hart and McGovern for Environmental Protection. Request introduction of legislation to include Mineral King within the boundaries of the Park.
Secretary Rogers Morton Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20250	Remind him of the purpose of National Parks and the need to protect them from access routes for non-park purposes. Ask him to support efforts to include Mineral King in Sequoia National Park.
Secretary Earl Butz Department of Agriculture Washington, D.C. 20250	Outline the major objections to the proposed development and to the handling of the matter by the Forest Service. Request that Forest Service procedures be revised to include mandatory public hearings on all major development plans.
Mr. E. Cardon Walker, President Walt Disney Productions 500 S. Buena Vista Burbank, Ca. 91503	Object to their plan to over-crowd and over-commercialize a beautiful natural area. Stress that such high-density developments do not belong on public land with irreplaceable natural values.
Mr. M. R. James, Supervisor Sequoia National Forest 900 W. Grand Ave. Porterville, Calif. 93257	Object to the drastic reduction of campsites and parking space at Mineral King when ample room is actually available for both. Send copies of your letters to your Congressman and Senators and to Mr. Douglas Liesz.
Mr. Douglas Liesz, Regional Forester United States Forest Service 630 Sansome St. San Francisco, Calif. 94111	Object to the limitation of camping and parking at Mineral King. Urge him to authorize construction of additional sanitary facilities and developed campsites. Send copies to Congressmen.
President Richard Nixon White House Washington, D.C.	Explain your objections to the project and request his intervention to save Mineral King.
Letters to the editor	Letters to skiing and other sports magazines.
Distribute a petition opposing the development	For petition, write Jean Koch, 6334 W. 80th St. Los Angeles, Ca. 90045
If you ski, send your name and address to----------	Skiers For a Natural Mineral King, P.O. Box 46060 Los Angeles, Ca. 90046

Make a donation to the Mineral King Task Force c/o Jean Koch at above address.

Make a donation to the Sierra Club for the defense of Mineral King. 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Ca. 94104

Obtain the Mineral King Film for your club. Write Jean Koch at above address or The University of Southern Calif., Div. of Cinema, University Park, Los Angeles 90007.

Prepared by: Mineral King Task Force, Sierra Club. November, 1972

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